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Alex Huntsville to The Huntsville Times, 28 September 1962

Alex Huntsville

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[OXFORD, Miss.--Where in daylight nightstick-swinging officers had patrolled the Ole Miss campus, last night there was only ^{the} darkness.

Where more than a thousand students had gathered to cheer their governor ^(Thursday) in the afternoon, there was only a moon-dappled patch of asphalt.

[Thus, the University of Mississippi ended a day of crisis that looked at times as though it might mark the beginning of the second Civil War.

[Not that the students were involved in any threat against the peace and order of the land, for this was not the case.

[They had behaved throughout the day with restraint, outwardly unaware that one of the ~~most important~~ most important chapters in the growing struggle between state and federal government was being played at the threshold of their campus.

[Yes, life went on at usual last night at Ole Miss. Along the campus' attractive fraternity row could be heard the plaintive plucking ~~of the~~ of the banjo, occasional voices raised together in song. Inside the fraternities, students watched television with special emphasis on news programs gathered in small groups for the inevitable bull sessions and did an amazing amount of studying for the circumstances.

Rumors dominated the bull sessions. "The word is out again that Meredith won't attempt to enroll/until Monday," one student said. This could not be verified.

["The word is out that 400 marshals will lead Meredith

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onto the campus first thing in the morning," another said. This could not be verified.

"The Highway Patrolmen have been sent back to their home stations," another said. It turned out that the patrolmen who lately have been billeted in the National Guard armory here, were absent last night.

But at the Alumni House, where Gov. Ross Barnett is making his temporary headquarters, about 20 official cars, many of them with the markings of various sheriffs, were drawn up outside.

"They plan to call the patrol back first thing in the morning," one student said. The patrol, however, wasn't talking about its plans. In fact the patrolmen, who had been on duty at all five entrances to the campus, were not at all in evidence last night.

A press corps, which had mounted in number throughout yesterday (Thursday) and had patrolled the campus with greater vigil than the officers, had also retired last night. By ~~nightfall~~ ^{pen} 140 newsmen had registered with University officials, but quite a few unregistered reporters were known to be roaming the area, a university official said.

What is to be the fate of Ole Miss, if the crisis deepens?

The students don't know, of course, but most of them seem to ~~want the school to keep open its doors~~ ^{favor keeping the school open} regardless of the circumstances. ^{and don't plan to}

"Many of us haven't bought books yet ~~though~~ until after we see what happens," a pessimistic student noted.